

Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed March 6, 2007. The specification is amended to address a formality and to update references to related applications. Claims 2, 11-14, and 17-18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 15 are amended to incorporate subject matter from claims 2 and 17-18, respectively. Claims 1, 3-10, and 15-21 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are requested for at least the following reasons.

I. Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29 has been amended to provide a plain text description of the acronym “LCD” as “liquid-crystal display.” Also, the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 9 has been amended to update references to related applications.

II. Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

In sections 2 and 3 of the Action, claims 1 and 15 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7,143,218. This objection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Nevertheless, in the interest of moving this application into condition for allowance, a terminal disclaimer is being submitted herewith. Therefore, removal of the rejection of claims 1 and 15 is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

In sections 4 and 5 of the Action, claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejections is not conceded. Nevertheless, in the interest of moving this application into condition for allowance, claims 11-14 are canceled. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections are therefore requested.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In sections 6-14 of the Action, claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over various combinations of Numano (U.S. Patent No. 6,934,778), Liebnaw (U.S.

Patent No. 5,881,318), Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,420), Flinchem (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,548), Gibson (U.S. Patent No. 6,313,854) as well as “known editors.” These rejections are respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejections is not conceded. Reconsideration is requested for the following reasons.

A. Claims 1-10

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected as being obvious over the combination of Numano and Liebnow. With this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 2. As explained above, the Examiner indicated in a telephone call on May 30, 2007 that amended claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-10 depend from allowable claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 is respectfully requested.

B. Claims 15-21

In the Office Action, claim 15 is rejected as being obvious over the combination of combination of Numano and Liebnow. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected as being obvious over the combination of Numano, Liebnow, and Flinchem. With this Amendment, claim 15 is amended to incorporate subject matter from claims 17 and 18.

Claim 15 is directed to a method for commanding a computer system. Claim 1 recites receiving input from a user of the computer system; passing the input to a control element in a control level; bubbling the input up through all levels of control elements in a tree; looking up a matching command binding associated with the input in a table of control bindings; passing the input to an application element in an application level; looking up the matching command binding associated with the input in a table of application bindings; tunneling the matching command binding associated with the input down through the levels of control elements in the tree; and invoking a handler associated with the input if the matching command binding is found in either the table of control bindings or the table of application bindings.

As described in example embodiments of the present application, bubbling is the process of traversing upward from a child element to its parent, grandparent, etc. Tunneling is the process of traversing downward from a parent commanding element to its child, grandchild, etc. By bubbling the input up through all levels of control elements in a tree and tunneling the matching command binding associated with the input down through the levels of control

elements in the tree, additional and more flexible commanding functionality can be realized. Application, p. 8, l. 31 – p. 9, l. 3.

In the Office Action the Examiner states that Numano and Liebnow do not teach bubbling or tunneling, and Applicant agrees with this conclusion. The Office Action suggests that Flinchem teaches bubbling and tunneling as recited in claim 15.

Flinchem discloses a reduced keyboard disambiguating system. The purpose of the system is to determine what words are being typed when multiple letters share a single key, such as for a telephone system. FIG. 10 illustrates a vocabulary module tree 110 which is used to organize objects (e.g., words) based on a corresponding keystroke sequence. The tree is traversed based on a received keystroke sequence. The tree is traversed as each keystroke is received. Col. 12, l. 62 – col. 13, l. 3.

Flinchem fails to disclose or suggest tunneling the matching command binding associated with the input down through the levels of control elements in the tree and bubbling the input up through all levels of control elements in a tree. Instead, Flinchem simply discloses that a vocabulary tree can be traversed to disambiguate words from entered keystrokes.

Claim 15 is therefore patentable over Numano, Liebnow, and Flinchem for at least these reasons. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 15, as well as claims 16-21 that depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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